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For Immediate Release  
May 27, 2005

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## **Legislators, Boost MI Kids Coalition work together for child passenger safety**

**LANSING** – A package of bills before the state Legislature would make vehicle travel safer for Michigan’s youngest passengers, say legislators and members of the Boost MI Kids Coalition.

“This legislation would help ensure our youngest passengers are traveling as safely as possible,” said state Sen. Michelle McManus, sponsor of the package. “As a legislator and a mother, I understand the importance of properly restraining children in the car.”

Senate Bill 183, sponsored by McManus, R-Lake Leelanau, would require all children over the age of four to be in booster seats until they were at least 4 feet 9 inches tall or reached their eighth birthday, whichever came first.

Other bills in the package would:

- Require children 12 and younger riding in the backseat of a vehicle to be restrained when appropriate safety belts are available;
- Eliminate the exemption allowing children being nursed to be unrestrained in a moving vehicle;
- Establish penalties for violating the new laws; and
- Designate that fines paid by violators would be placed in a special fund to provide booster seats to low-income families.

Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of accidental death for children up to age 15 according to the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. In 2002, 49 children under age 15 died and 7,232 were injured in traffic crashes in Michigan.

The package was unveiled at a press conference Thursday in Lansing.

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**Editors note: Downloadable photos of the press conference are available online at**  
<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/McManus/McManus.htm>.